

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following issues are outstanding in the Final Office Action dated October 12, 2003:

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Argenta et al. 'WO 94/20041 (hereinafter referred to as "Argenta") in view of Collyer et al '5,973,221 (hereinafter referred to as "Collyer").

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Argenta in view of Collyer and in further view of Gibbins '6,355,858 (hereinafter referred to as "Gibbins").

Claims 1 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleischmann '6,398,767 (hereinafter referred to as "Fleischmann") in view of Collyer.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and objections, and in light of the following remarks request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a): Argenta in view of Collyer

Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Argenta in view of Collyer. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to specifically claim a method for "reepithelializing a wound surface by predisposing wound healing factors into a negative pressure system." Applicant respectfully asserts that there is not suggestion to combine the teaching of Argenta and Collyer to achieve the claimed invention as currently amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a): Argenta in view of Collyer and in further view of Gibbins

Examiner has rejected Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Argenta in view of Collyer and in further view of Gibbins. Applicant has amended claims 2-5 to specifically claim a method for “reepithelializing a wound surface by predisposing wound healing factors into a negative pressure system.” Applicant respectfully asserts that there is not suggestion to combine the teaching of Argenta, Collyer, and Gibbins to achieve the claimed invention as currently amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a): Fleischmann in view of Collyer

Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 7 -10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleischmann in view of Collyer. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7-10 to specifically claim a method for “reepithelializing a wound surface by predisposing wound healing factors into a negative pressure system.” Applicant respectfully asserts that there is not suggestion to combine the teaching of Argenta and Collyer to achieve the claimed invention as currently amended.

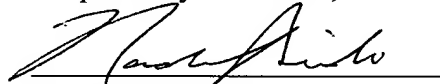
SUMMARY

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested. Allowance of Claims 1-11 at an early date is solicited.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that outstanding issues remain in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated to discuss resolution of such issues.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nadeem G. Bridi', is written over a horizontal line.

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